

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
June 24, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 P.M.

INVOCATION: Reverend Anderson

ROLLCALL: Mr. Spann and Mr. Goralczyk were absent. All other members were present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REMONSTRATIONS:

- 1) **Swearing in of officers:**
Philip J. Mason
William S. Hanner
- 2) **Large gathering permits for:**
 - a) Grecian Festival
 - b) St. Elijah Serbfest
 - c) India Fest
 - d) Salvatorian Fathers

Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and Mr. Pettit seconded. Mr. Hardaway asked the Planning and Building Director, Dorinda Gregor if the Salvatorian Fathers have all of their things they need and if they had enough port potties. Mrs. Gregor stated that she did not bring her folder with all information but they do have everything they need. Mr. Pettit asked the council if all comments made for each permit should be recorded on record. Mrs. Miano stated yes. Comments are as follows:

A)

DATE: JUNE 4, 2014
PREPARED BY: DORINDA GREGOR, ZONING DIRECTOR
APPLICANT: GRECIAN FESTIVAL
OWNER: ST. CONSTANTINE & HELEN CATHEDRAL
REQUEST: APPROVAL FOR LARGE GATHERING PERMIT
PURPOSE: SUPPLEMENT FINANCIAL NEEDS
LOCATION: 8000 MADISON STREET
DATE(S) OF LARGE GATHERING: FRIDAY, JULY 11, 2014
SATURDAY, JULY 12, 2014
SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2014
TIME: FRIDAY/ 5:00 UNTIL 11:00 P.M.
SATURDAY & SUNDAY/ NOON UNTIL 11:00 P.M.

COMMENTS: ST. CONSTANTINE & HELEN CATHEDRAL WILL HAVE ITS ANNUAL GRECIAN FESTIVAL LOCATED AT 8000 MADISON STREET ON FRIDAY, JULY 11, 2014 UNTIL SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2014. HOURS OF THE LARGE GATHERING WILL BE FRIDAY FROM 5:00 P.M. UNTIL 11:00 P.M. AND SATURDAY AND SUNDAY FROM NOON UNTIL 11:00 P.M. THERE WILL BE APPROXIMATELY 7,000 TO 8000 VISITORS IN ATTENDANCE DURING THE FESTIVAL. THERE WILL BE A CARNIVAL AND ENTERTAINMENT OF MUSIC THE MUSIC WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE MONTERREY MUSIC GROUP ON FRIDAY EVENING FROM 7:00 P.M. UNTIL 11:00 P.M. PANZ WILL ENTERTAIN ON SATURDAY EVENING FROM 7:00 11:00 P.M. AND ORMI GREEK BAND WILL PROVIDE MUSIC ON SUNDAY FROM 5:00 P.M. UNTIL 11:00 P.M. FOOD, BEER, AND WINE WILL BE SOLD. THERE WILL BE NO FIREWORKS AS IN THE PAST. SIX OFF DUTY MERRILLVILLE POLICE OFFICERS WILL PROVIDE SECURITY AND THERE IS ADEQUATE FIRE PROTECTION, RESTROOM FACILITIES, DUMPSTERS, AND PARKING ON SITE.

B)

DATE: JUNE 4, 2014
PREPARED BY: DORINDA GREGOR ZONING DIRECTOR
APPLICANT: ST. ELIJAH SERBFEST
OWNER: ST. ELIJAH CATHEDRAL CHURCH
REQUEST: APPROVAL FOR LARGE GATHERING PERMIT
PURPOSE: FUNDRAISER FOR CHURCH PROGRAMS
LOCATION: 8700 TAFT STREET
DATE(S) OF LARGE GATHERING: FRIDAY, JULY 11, 2014
SATURDAY, JULY 12, 2014
SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2014
TIME: FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, NOON UNTIL MIDNIGHT SUNDAY, NOON UNTIL 10:00 P.M.

COMMENTS: ST. ELIJA CATHEDRAL CHURCH WILL HAVE ITS ANNUAL SERBFEST LOCATED AT 8700 TAFT STREET ON FRIDAY, JULY 11, SATURDAY, JULY 12, AND SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2014. HOURS OF THE LARGE GATHERING WILL BE FRIDAY AND, SATURDAY FROM NOON UNTIL MIDNIGHT AND SUNDAY NOON UNTIL 10:00 P.M. THERE WILL BE APPROXIMATELY 1000 VISITORS IN ATTENDANCE DURING THE FESTIVAL. ST. ELIJAH WILL NOT HAVE ANY OUTSIDE FOOD VENDORS. ALL FOOD WILL BE CATERED BY THE CHURCH. THERE WILL BE A BEER GARDEN LOCATED IN A TENT NEAR THEIR PATIO. FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY THE ENTERTAINMENT WILL CONSIST OF A TAMBURITZA BAND WHICH WILL PLAY INSIDE OF THE HALL AND ON THE PATIO. ALSO ON SATURDAY EVENING THERE WILL BE A SERBIAN BAND THAT PLAYS MUSIC GEARED TOWARD DANCING FOR THE KIDS.OFF DUTY LAKE COUNTY POLICE OFFICERS WILL PROVIDE SECURITY DURING THE LARGE GATHERING. THERE ARE ADEQUATE RESTROOMS, DUMPSTERS AND PARKING ON SITE. ALL LARGE GATHERING REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN MET.

C)

DATE: JUNE 18, 2014

PREPARED BY: DORINDA GREGOR, ZONING DIRECTOR

APPLICANT: INDIA FEST

OWNER: NORTHWEST INDIANA HINDU RELIGIOUS CENTER/INDIAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

REQUEST: APPROVAL FOR LARGE GATHERING PERMIT

PURPOSE: INDIA FEST

LOCATION: 8605 MERRILLVILLE ROAD

DATE(S) OF LARGE GATHERING: SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 2014

TIME: 10 A.M. TO 6 P.M.

COMMENTS: NORTHWEST INDIANA HINDU RELIGIOUS CENTER WILL HAVE ITS ANNUAL INDIA FEST LOCATED AT 8605 MERRILLVILLE ROAD ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 2014 FROM 10:00 A.M. UNTIL 6:00 P.M. ANTICIPATED VISITORS IN ATTENDANCE WILL BE APPROXIMATELY 400 - 500. ALL VENDORS WILL BE INSIDE OF THE TENT DURING THE EVENT. PROGRAMS WILL BE HELD INSIDE OF THE BUILDING. THE MERRILLVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT WILL PROVIDE FOR SECURITY. THERE ARE ADEQUATE RESTROOMS, DUMPSTERS, AND PARKING ON SITE. ALL LARGE GATHERING REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN MET.

D)

DATE: JUNE 4, 2014

PREPARED BY: DORINDA GREGOR ZONING DIRECTOR

APPLICANT: SALVATORIAN FATHERS

OWNER: SALVATORIAN FATHERS

REQUEST: APPROVAL FOR LARGE GATHERING PERMIT

PURPOSE: POLISH/AMERICAN 26TH PILGRIMAGE IN HONOR OF OUR
LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA

LOCATION: 5755 PENNSYLVANIA STREET

DATE(S) OF LARGE GATHERING: SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 2014

TIME: 11:00 A.M. UNTIL 5:00 P.M.

COMMENTS: THE RELIGIOUS ASSEMBLY WILL CONSIST OF APPROXIMATELY 5000 IN ATTENDANCE AT THE SALVATORIAN FATHERS PROPERTY (HALL, CHURCH, AND PICNIC AREA) LOCATED AT 5755 PENNSYLVANIA STREET ON 20 ACRES ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 2014. THERE WILL BE A PROCESSION BEGINNING IN CHICAGO ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2014 AND WILL STOP IN MUNSTER FOR AN OVERNIGHT STAY. THE PARADE WILL RESUME ON SUNDAY MORNING, AUGUST 10, 2014 AND PROCEED TO THEIR DESTINATION IN MERRILLVILLE. THERE WILL BE ADEQUATE RESTROOM FACILITIES, DUMPSTERS, AND SECURITY OFFICERS WILL BE PROVIDED BY OFF DUTY POLICE FROM THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE. THERE WILL BE DIRECTIONAL AND NO PARKING SIGNS POSTED IN POLISH LANGUAGE LOCATED IN THE 5600-5800 BLOCKS OF MASSACHUSETTS, PENNSYLVANIA, AND CONNECTICUT STREETS. ALL DEPARTMENTS HEADS AND PROMPT MEDICAL SERVICE HAVE REVIEWED THE LARGE GATHERING PERMIT APPLICATION AND THE LARGE GATHERING REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN MET PER CODE.

The motion was approved by a 5/0 voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Accts. Payable Register Voucher Approval June 24, 2014. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of June 10, 2014. Mr. Widing made a motion to approve and Mrs. Barron seconded. The motion was approved by a 5/0 voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE: No report.

PUBLIC WORKS: Mr. Pettit announced that Waste Management is providing Merrillville residents with a weekly pick up of branches and brush on their regularly scheduled garbage day. They will collect unlimited brush contained in a clearly marked 35-gallon can with handles or in a 33-gallon biodegradable bag or bundled with biodegradable twine. The maximum bundle size cannot be larger than four feet length by three feet in diameter. The cans and bundles cannot exceed 50 lbs.

Mr. Pettit asked about the summer mosquito spray. Mr. Spires stated standing waters have been treated and they will start scheduling trucks to get out before July fourth weekend.

Mr. Hardaway commended Public Works for a job well done during a tree clean up.

Mr. Spires stated that paving is taking place in Savannah Ridge subdivision.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS: No report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS: No report.

PUBLIC SAFETY: No report.

PARKS & RECREATION: Merrillville Parks Day Camp started. Motown Music trip was taken and Chicago Cubs trip coming up.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS: Mr. Lake provided updates regarding Stormwater: Stormwater is keeping drains clear. Stormwater is working on qualities for Clay Street drainage improvement project. Stormwater has an audit prep meeting with IDEM. Currently Little Calumet Basin Commission is reviewing Stormwater's application for flood control projects in the Meadow dale sub water shed.

Mr. Pettit asked Mr. Spires and Mr. Lake to meet after the meeting about the Chapel Manor/ Forest Hills ditch.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

July 3rd is Merrillville’s Independence Parade at 7pm. The Lion’s Club will be collecting food for the Ross Township pantry.

Farmer’s Market will be the second and fourth Sunday of July in the town hall parking lot.

August 9th George Rogge will conduct a sale for any persons to come sale their items from 8am-6pm for a \$20 donation payable to INLHA, persons will get a 10x10 foot space.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: No report.

UTILITY LIAISON: Mrs. Barron announced the Cap Program is coming back. Mrs. Barron mentions starting a competition for cap collection, if anyone is interested contact her at 219-808-7148. Drop-off site for caps will be at the Stormwater building at 7404 Broadway, Monday – Friday 8am-4pm. Mrs. Barron said there needs to be a town council workshop and to invite Jeff Langbehn. Mrs. Barron wants to start an electric drop off site.

Mr. Pettit brought to the councils attention that residents have been complaining about the work Enbridge has been doing. Mr. Pettit suggested that if Enbridge’s projects are complete they need to clean their work area up and move on. Mrs. Gregor stated that she is in contact with Enbridge. Mr. Lake said that he is in communication with staff of Enbridge and appears they are close to finishing.

TOWN GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANIZATION: No report.

ADA COMPLIANCES: No Report.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES-HARDAWAY:

Mr. Hardaway stated the committee has met twice. Senate Bill 422 has hidden information that was not recognized before. The town attorneys have done a great job with their research. Originally it was thought the committee was going to be able to cater to Veterans and Disable Veterans first, which cannot be done. They will continue to pursue abandon homes and get people into them. Mr. Hardaway stated they will be working with Fifth Third Bank and any other lender that is willing to partner.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 14-21: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Parks non-reverting fund of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, for the year 2014 not included in the current budget. Mr. Widing made a motion to approve and Mr. Hardaway seconded. The motion was approved by a 5/0 roll call vote.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

RESOLUTIONS: No report.

BZA ACTIONS:

Petitioner: Accessabilities Inc.
Owner: Accessabilities Inc.
Request: Special exception approval
Purpose: For a training facility for individuals with disabilities.
Location: 8398 Mississippi Street
Zoning: C-3 Highway Commercial
Case #: Z12E8-0414

For this petitioner only, at this location, only for this use only; to follow up with an appeal process with the State of Indiana for the clarification of the use. Mr. Widing made a motion to approve and Mr. Pettit seconded the motion. Mrs. Gregor stated that per discussion at the workshop the petitioner is to be revaluated in six months subject to the code compliance to acceptance of the state code. The motion was approved by a 5/0 roll call vote.

REQUEST TO WITHDRAW:

Petitioner: Landmark Sign Group
Owner: Double Up LLC/Insbrook CC
Request: Variance of use approval
Purpose: For a proposed off premise monument sign
Location: 6755 Taft Street
Zoning: R-1, Single family residential
Case #: Z27uV2-0114

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and Mr. Hardaway seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5/0 roll call vote.

OLD BUSINESS: No report.

NEW BUSINESS: No report.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on cassette tape and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Stormwater Management Board meeting, July 1, 2014 at 4:30 p.m.

Plan Commission workshop, July 1, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

Redevelopment Commission meeting, July 8, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Town Council meeting, July 8, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

Police Commission meeting, July 11, 2014 at 8:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Carol Miano- President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer